

TRANSLATION.

Original despatch in Assamese.

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OFFICE OF THE POLITICAL INTERPRETER,
SIANG FRONTIER DIVISION, PASIGHAT.

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Pasighat, the 22nd September 1952.

To

Shri A. I. Phiso,
President, Naga National Council,
Kohima, Naga Hills.

Dear Mr. Phiso,

Your letter has reached me, and I have read it many times, and prayed over it. I have not forgotten the days I stayed in your house, nor the kindness you showed to me, and for this I am thankful. I am writing to you now not as a servant of the Sarkar, but as one brother in Christ and one hill man to another. I beg you to read it in that spirit only.

You say we were never of India, and never of Burma, and in this you are not wrong. The British came, and the British went, and they left us to ourselves. But our fathers' day is finished now, Mr. Phiso. The big countries are standing all round our hills, and a small people cannot live any longer as if it is alone in the world.

There is one more thing which you are not seeing. A nation is not made by a flag only. India is having its courts, its treasury, and its officers trained long time in the work of ruling; Burma also is having the same. We Abors are having none of those things. Our word goes no further than the village khang. Even today the Sarkar is looking after us through the Political Officer Saneb, under the Governor of Assam, and we have not the trained men, nor the money, for the ruling of a country of our own. If we are taking this freedom before we are able to carry it, it will bring to our people not freedom, but only trouble and hunger.

The Word of God is plain, and I am holding fast to it. Blessed are the peacemakers. He says, for they shall be called the children of God. And again, they that take the sword shall perish by the sword. Blood, once it is spilled, is good to no man. It does not bring back the dead, and it leaves behind only the widow and the orphan. As much as iteth in you, says the Apostle, you must live peaceably with all men.

Therefore I am begging you, make your peace with the Sarkar at Delhi while the door is still open. I myself cannot take up arms against the country in which I am living, and I will not ask my Abor people to do so. Inside the Union we Abors may keep our land, our custom, and our worship, and in God's good time we shall learn to manage our own affairs. This road is more safe, and more Christian, than one war which we cannot win, and which is making only more graves among our people.

May the Lord give you wisdom in this hour. May Almighty God preserve you and your people, and keep peace between your hills and ours.

Yours faithfully, and in Christ,

(34/11/52)

Political Interpreter,
Siang Frontier Division.

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